

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A switch illuminating EL (electroluminescence) sheet having a light emitting pattern corresponding to a switch, comprising:

a light emitting layer having EL phosphor particles which are contained dispersedly in a dielectric matrix, each of the EL phosphor particles having a damp-proof coating formed on a surface thereof;

a transparent electrode layer arranged along a light emitting face of the light emitting layer and constituted of a conductive polymer;

a transparent protection film arranged on the transparent electrode layer and having a thickness of 10 μm to 60 μm ; and

a dielectric layer and a back electrode layer which are arranged in order along a non light emitting face of the light emitting layer.

Claim 2 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 1, wherein the EL phosphor particles are constituted of ZnS-based EL phosphors.

Claim 3 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 2, wherein the EL phosphor particles have a mean particle diameter of 10 μm to 23 μm and a particle distribution including 30% or less by mass of constituents having a particle diameter of 25.4 μm or larger.

Claim 4 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 3, wherein the EL phosphor particle has luminance of 80 cd/m² or higher under drive conditions of a voltage of 100 V and a frequency of 400 Hz when an EL element is produced

using a transparent electrode having light transmittance of 85% or higher and surface resistance of 500 Ω/\square or lower.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to ~~claim 5~~claim 1,

wherein the damp-proof coating is constituted of a metal oxide film or a metal nitride film.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to ~~claim 5~~claim 1,

wherein the damp-proof coating has a mean film thickness of 0.1 μm to 2 μm .

Claim 8 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 3,
wherein the switch illuminating EL sheet exhibits luminance of 50 cd/m² or higher under drive conditions of a voltage of 100 V and a frequency of 400 Hz.

Claim 9 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 1,
wherein the transparent electrode layer constituted of the conductive polymer has a mean thickness of 0.1 μm or larger, and surface resistance of 1000 Ω/\square or lower and light transmittance of less than 80%.

Claim 10 (Original): The switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 1, further comprising:

a back insulation layer arranged on the back electrode layer.

Claim 11 (Original): An illuminated switch comprising a switch illuminating EL sheet according to claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): The illuminated switch according to claim 11, comprising:
a switch mechanism portion;
a key top portion which operates the switch mechanism portion; and
the switch illuminating EL sheet arranged between the switch mechanism portion and the key top portion, and illuminating the key top portion.

Claim 13 (Original): The illuminated switch according to claim 12,
wherein the switch mechanism portion has a dome type movable contact point and a fixed point arranged on a substrate.

Claim 14 (Original): An electronic apparatus comprising an illuminated switch according to claim 11.

Claim 15 (Original): The electronic apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein the electronic apparatus is a mobile communication apparatus.

Claim 16 (New): An illuminated switch, comprising:
a plurality of switch mechanism portions;
a plurality of key top portions which operate the plurality of switch mechanism portions; and

an electroluminescence (EL) sheet, arranged between the plurality of switch mechanism portions and the plurality of key top portions, having a pattern of light emitting portions corresponding to the plurality of key top portions;

wherein the electroluminescence sheet includes light emitting layers corresponding to the light emitting portions, transparent electrode layers, arranged along light emitting faces of the light emitting layers, corresponding to the light emitting portions, two or more systems of power supply wires connecting the transparent electrode layers, a transparent protection film arranged on the transparent electrode layers, dielectric layers arranged along non-light emitting faces of the light emitting layers, and a back electrode layer having electrode portions, arranged at the non-light emitting faces of the light emitting layers through the dielectric layers, corresponding to the light emitting portions and two or more systems of power supply wires connecting the electrode portions;

wherein the light emitting layers have electroluminescence phosphor particles which are contained dispersedly in a dielectric matrix, the transparent electrode layers are constituted of a conductive polymer, and the transparent protection film has a thickness of 10 μm to 60 μm .

Claim 17 (New): The illuminated switch according to claim 16, wherein the switch mechanism portions each have a dome type movable contact point and a fixed contact point arranged on a substrate.

Claim 18 (New): The illuminated switch according to claim 16, further comprising: resin pads arranged at positions corresponding to centers of the light emitting portions on at least one of a front face and a back face of the electroluminescence sheet.

Claim 19 (New): The illuminated switch according to claim 16, wherein the electroluminescence phosphor particles are constituted of a ZnS-based electroluminescence phosphor.

Claim 20 (New): The illuminated switch according to claim 16, wherein the electroluminescence phosphor particles each have a damp-proof coating formed on a surface thereof.

Claim 21 (New): The illuminated switch according to claim 16, wherein the electroluminescence sheet includes a back insulation layer arranged on the back electrode layer.

Claim 22 (New): A method for producing an illuminated switch, comprising:
producing an electroluminescence (EL) sheet having a pattern of light emitting portions, and including:

forming transparent electrode layers corresponding to the light emitting portions on a transparent protection film having a thickness of 10 μm to 60 μm , the transparent electrode layers being constituted of a conductive polymer;

forming two or more systems of power supply wires connecting the transparent electrode layers corresponding to the light emitting portions;

forming light emitting layers corresponding to the light emitting portions on the transparent electrode layers, the light emitting layers having electroluminescence phosphor particles which are contained dispersedly in a dielectric matrix;

forming dielectric layers corresponding to the light emitting portions on the light emitting layers; and

forming a back electrode layer on the transparent protection film having the transparent electrode layers, the light emitting layers and the dielectric layers, the back electrode layer having electrode portions corresponding to the light emitting portions and two or more system of power supply wires connecting the electrode portions; and

producing the illuminated switch by arranging the electroluminescence sheet between a plurality of switch mechanism portions and a plurality of key top portions which operate the plurality of switch mechanism portions so that the light emitting portions correspond with the key top portions.

Claim 23 (New): The method for producing the illuminated switch according to claim 22,

wherein the switch mechanism portions have dome type movable contact points and fixed contact points arranged on a substrate, and the movable contact points and the fixed contact pints are arranged so as to correspond with the key top portions.

Claim 24 (New): The method for producing the illuminated switch according to claim 22, further comprising:

arranging resin pads at positions corresponding to centers of the light emitting portions on at least one of a front face and a back face of the electroluminescence sheet.

Claim 25 (New): The method for producing the illuminated switch according to claim 22,

wherein the electroluminescence phosphor particles each have a damp-proof coating formed on a surface thereof.

Claim 26 (New): The method for producing the illuminated switch according to claim 22,

wherein the electroluminescence sheet producing includes arranging a back insulation layer on the back electrode layer.